

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An axial thrust bearing, comprising:  
  
three running disks disposed in neighboring disposition, thereby defining two outer running disks and a middle running disk between the outer running disks;  
  
a first rim of rolling bodies arranged between one of the outer running disks and the middle running disk, and a second rim of rolling bodies arranged between the other one of the outer running disks and the middle running disk; and  
  
a sleeve received in a bore of the first and second rims and supporting the first and second rims of rolling bodies, said sleeve securely fixed to a shaft and extending in axial direction beyond the outer running disks, said sleeve having one end formed with a radially outwardly directed flange which embraces the adjacent one of the outer running disks, wherein the other one of the outer running disks is securely connected to the sleeve to thereby form a unitary bearing structure.
2. The thrust bearing of claim 1, wherein the other one of the outer running disks has an L-shaped configuration, thereby defining a first leg and a second leg, with the first leg being shorter than the second leg and placed over the sleeve, wherein the first leg is connected to the sleeve by swaging.

3. The thrust bearing of claim 1, wherein the other one of the outer running disks has an L-shaped configuration, thereby defining a first leg and a second leg, with the first leg being shorter than the second leg and placed over the sleeve, wherein the first leg is connected to the sleeve by gluing.
4. The thrust bearing of claim 1, wherein the other one of the outer running disks has an L-shaped configuration, thereby defining a first leg and a second leg, with the first leg being shorter than the second leg and placed over the sleeve, wherein the first leg is connected to the sleeve by welding.
5. The thrust bearing of claim 1, and further comprising a resilient clamping ring acting upon the other one of the outer running disks in an axial direction, said clamping ring being supported on the sleeve.
6. The thrust bearing of claim 5, wherein the clamping ring is made of a material which is harder than a material of the sleeve.
7. The thrust bearing of claim 1, wherein the middle running disk has a diameter which is greater than a diameter of the outer running disks.
8. The thrust bearing of claim 1, wherein the middle running disk is provided with at least one throughbore.

9. The thrust bearing of claim 1, wherein the sleeve and the running disks are made through a shaping process without material removal.
10. The thrust bearing of claim 1, wherein the first and second rims of rolling bodies are configured as roller rims.
11. The thrust bearing of claim 1, wherein the first and second rims of rolling bodies are configured as ball rims.